

Master Plan
Captain William Clark Park at Cottonwood Beach
A Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Project
Washougal, Washington



Project Partners:
Clark County
Port of Camas/Washougal
City of Washougal
City of Camas
National Park Service

Prepared by:
The JD White Company, Inc.
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November 2003

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Capt. William Clark Park
at cottonwood beach

1806
Washougal, Washington
Meriwether Lewis and William Clark established a camp at Cottonwood Beach on March 31, 1806, while they secured provisions for their return trip through the Columbia River Gorge to points east. They stayed here for six days, their longest stay at any Clark County site.

2006
A multi-jurisdictional effort is underway to celebrate the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in 2006 by improving historic interpretation and outdoor recreation facilities at Cottonwood Beach.

2005
Most of the new park features are scheduled for completion in June 2005. They include new trails and walkways, picnic facilities, restrooms, and showers, historic interpretation signs, boat dock, scenic viewpoints, and enhanced camping and parking sites.

Invest in our history by investing in our future
Whether you volunteer time or sponsor a park feature, your investment will reap benefits for thousands of citizens and visitors in years to come. To find out how you, your company, or your organization can make a difference, visit our web site:
www.vanclarkparks-rec.org

March 31 and April 1-6, 1806
"We now informed the party of our intention of laying in a store of meat at this place."
Meriwether Lewis Journal

"The natives inhabiting the lower portion of the Columbia River made their canoes remarkably neat light and well adapted for riding high waves... some of the large canoes are squarish of 50 feet long and will carry from 8 to 10 thousand lbs. or from 20 to thirty persons... some of them... are waxed painted and ornamented with curious images."
Meriwether Lewis Journal

Logos for Clark County, Port of Camas/Washougal, City of Washougal, City of Camas, National Park Service, and other partners are at the bottom right.

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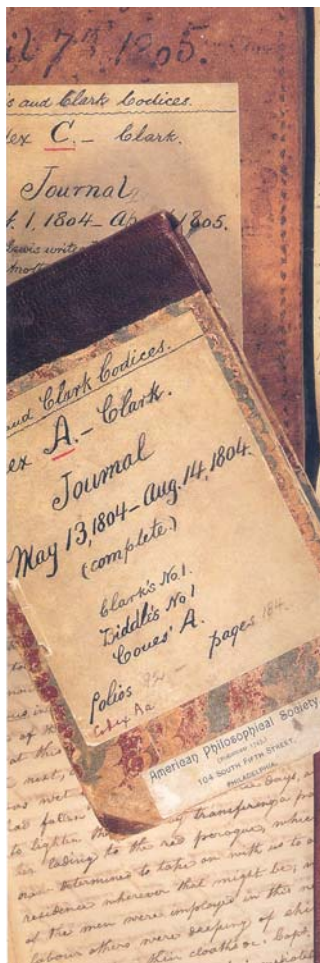
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Appendices as Separate Attachments

- Archaeological Assessment Report, Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc. (June 2002)
- Conceptual Interpretation Plan, Sea Reach Ltd. (August 2003)
- Wetland Delineation Report, The JD White Company, Inc. (August 2003)
- Traffic Impact Study, Lancaster Engineering, Inc. (August 2002)

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Executive Summary

The 2002 Captain William Clark Park Master Plan is the result of a very successful community-based planning effort. This plan provides a framework for park development of predominantly water-oriented activities and facilities that will blend with the existing shoreline's environmentally sensitive wildlife habitat areas and the natural landscape environment. The plan will allow visitors to choose from a variety of opportunities and experiences: passive and active recreation, historical interpretation, wildlife viewing, and environmental education.

The Master Plan benefited from the direction and guidance of 1) the eight-member Steering Committee of funding partners, 2) the 20-member Advisory Committee, 3) the many people who attended and provided their comments at community open house meetings, 4) the Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation planning staff, and 5) the master planning consultant team. During the six-month process, the planning team held a number of committee meetings and public open houses and developed three options that described and illustrated a range of potential development, from minimal and least cost, to more intensive and costly. Participants at the committee meetings and open houses voted for their choice and the planning team used the results of this input to create the recommended Master Plan.

The Master Plan synthesizes considerable research, site analysis, community involvement, public agency reviews, and careful consideration by all who participated. Significant effort was expended to understand and to respect the following:

- The Lewis & Clark Expedition of 200 years ago and its contributions to Clark County's natural and cultural history.
- The natural history and geologic changes over the past 20 million years.
- The environmental systems that are critical to the Columbia River's dynamic shoreline.
- The Columbia River and its fluid nature, seasonal changes, and its impact on natural and manmade systems.
- The resident and migratory wildlife and their habitat needs.
- How native people and settlers have traditionally used and impacted the land and the river.
- The requirement to balance the needs for recreation, historic interpretation, environmental education, and wildlife habitat enhancement.
- The population growth pattern and recreational needs of Clark County and the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area.
- Think connectivity to link this park to the surrounding natural and developed environment, school districts, and regional greenways and trails.



- The layers of federal, state, county, and city permits that will regulate the park's development.
- Be responsive to long-term park maintenance operations and costs during the planning and design.

Any master plan will sit on a shelf unless strong community support and financial commitment exist to make the plan happen. Fortunately, this Master Plan has benefited from tremendous support and commitment from many leaders and supporters from Clark County, the Port of Camas/Washougal, and the Cities of Washougal and Camas.



The Master Plan has received approval and support from the local level (Clark County, Port of Camas/Washougal, and the Cities of Washougal and Camas) and from two state grant funding sources. The four local funding partners unanimously approved the Master Plan on May 30, 2002 and also agreed to collectively contribute \$1 million towards the development of this park—an amazing financial commitment, especially in these difficult economic times. Soon thereafter, grant applications were submitted to the state's Inter-Agency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Both agencies have approved grant funding for the first phase of park development. In addition, grants for Lewis & Clark interpretation planning were approved by the National Park Service under its 2002 and 2003 Lewis & Clark Cost Sharing Challenge Grant program.



The Master Plan provides a solid foundation on which the next phases of design, permitting, and construction will need to build upon and to move this project forward and make the Captain William Clark Park at Cottonwood Beach a reality for its dedication in 2005 and commemoration of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial in 2005 and 2006.



Figure 1. May 30, 2002 Master Plan
Approval Signing Ceremony